

AMENDMENTS IN THE DRAWINGS:

In Fig. 3, the label -- 54 -- has been added to identify the capstan in such figure.

In Figs. 8-10, the label -- Conventional Art -- has been added.

Appropriate Replacement Sheet(s) for the amended drawings are submitted herewith.

REMARKS

Claims 1-7 are pending in the application. Figs. 3 and 8-10 have been amended herein. Favorable reconsideration of the application, as amended, is respectfully requested.

I. PTO-892 FORM

Applicants initially would like to note that they did not receive a Form PTO-892 listing the references cited in the Office Action. Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner provide a Form PTO-892 to ensure that the references are officially made of record and appear on the face of any resulting patent.

II. OBJECTIONS TO DRAWINGS

The Examiner objects to Figs. 8-10 as failing to include a legend such as "Prior Art". In response, applicants have amended Figs. 8-10 to include the label "Conventional Art".

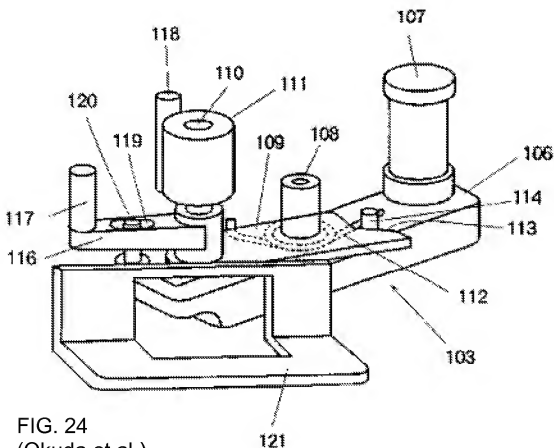
The Examiner also objects to the drawings as failing to include each of the features described in the application. Specifically, the Examiner indicates it is unclear from the drawings where the capstan 54 is shown in Fig. 3.

Applicants have amended Fig. 3 in order to include the label 54 for the capstan. Applicants respectfully submit that the location of the capstan 54 is readily apparent in Fig. 3 in relation to Figs. 1 and 2 in much the same manner as Figs. 8 and 9 illustrate a conventional capstan 154 which is further shown in Fig. 10 in similar cross section. (See, also, Spec., p. 12, Ins. 27-30; and p. 4, Ins. 12-15). No new matter has been added.

III. REJECTION OF CLAIMS 1-7 UNDER 35 USC §102(b)

Claims 1-7 stand rejected under 35 USC §102(b) based on *Okuda et al.*
Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection for at least the following reasons.

Claim 1 defines a magnetic recording and reproduction apparatus according to the present invention. Claim 1 recites, *inter alia*, an arm section pivotable about a pivoting shaft, and a tape guide section provided on the arm section for guiding a magnetic tape.

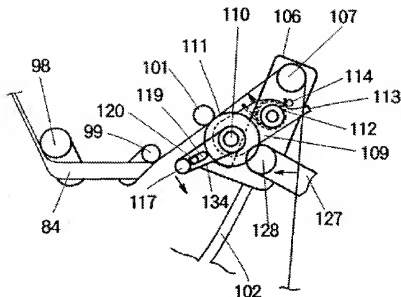


The Examiner points to Figs. 21-28 of *Okuda et al.* as illustrating a magnetic recording and reproduction apparatus as claimed. Referring specifically to Fig. 24 of *Okuda et al.* (reproduced above), the Examiner refers to there being an arm section pivotable about a pivoting shaft 108, and a tape guide section 107 provided on the arm section. The Examiner therefore contends that the tape guide section 107 represents the claimed tape guide section provided on the pivotable arm section that pivots about shaft 108.

Initially, applicants note that the tape guide section 107 in Fig. 24 of *Okuda et al.* is provided on the slider 106. The slider 106 does not pivot about shaft 108. The shaft 108 is implanted in the slider 106. It is pinch arm 109 in Fig. 24 that pivots about the shaft 108. (See, e.g., column 17, lines 16-32). Thus, if the tape guide section 107 is on the slider 106, and the slider 106 does not pivot about the shaft 108, the tape guide section 107 does not pivot about the shaft 108. This is directly contrary to the position taken by the Examiner in rejecting claim 1.

The Examiner further argues that slanting post 99 (Fig. 29 of *Okuda et al.*) represents a maintaining section as recited in claim 1. However, applicants respectfully submit that the slanting post 99 could not serve to maintain the relative position of the arm section as recited in claim 1, regardless of whether the Examiner considers the slider 106 or the pivoting pinch arm 109 to represent the claimed pivotable arm section.

FIG. 29



Applicants respectfully submit that Fig. 29 of *Okuda et al.* (reproduced above) illustrates how the slanting post 99 merely serves to guide the tape adjacent to the pinch roller 111. The position of the purported arm section in *Okuda et al.* (e.g. the slider 106 or the pivoting pinch arm 109) would be free to vary from the perspective of the slanting post 99. Conversely, Fig. 4 of the present application illustrates how the v-shaped groove section 71 secures the relative position of the post arm 58 when in the position at which the information recording to and/or information reproduction from the magnetic tape is possible. The slanting post 99 in *Okuda et al.* does not maintain a relative position of the arm section as recited in claim 1.

For at least the above reasons, applicants respectfully submit that *Okuda et al.* does not teach or suggest the features recited in claim 1. Claims 2-7 each depend from claim 1 either directly or indirectly, and may be distinguished for at least the same reasons.

Applicants therefore respectfully request withdrawal of the rejection.

IV. CONCLUSION

Accordingly, all claims 1-7 are believed to be allowable and the application is believed to be in condition for allowance. A prompt action to such end is earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner feel that a telephone interview would be helpful to facilitate favorable prosecution of the above-identified application, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number provided below.

Should a petition for an extension of time be necessary for the timely reply to the outstanding Office Action (or if such a petition has been made and an additional extension is necessary), petition is hereby made and the Commissioner is authorized to charge any fees (including additional claim fees) to Deposit Account No. 18-0988.

Respectfully submitted,

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